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Closed State Nursery Seeks Operators for Nursery, Buyers for Remaining Seedling Inventory

Salt Lake City, Utah – The State Nursery still has 400,000 tree, shrub and other seedlings to sell before May 21, 2009. Nursery managers are hoping to liquidate all the remaining stock in time to clean up the facilities before the June 30, 2009 shut-down date.

Although the operating budget for the nursery was discontinued in a 2008 round of legislative budget cuts, the nursery is currently open for business. Orders have trickled in, but the nursery's manager, Brandon Long hopes that all the remaining stock will be purchased by the conservation entities. Long also anticipates that while the state will no longer run the farm, an operating agreement with a private entity will allow the services provided by the nursery to continue as part of a private venture.

"Our expectation is that a private company will respond and make the nursery a viable business," Long said. "The capacity of the facility would enable someone to run a very large operation with a wide diversity of plant species," he continued.

The 35-acre facility currently grows over 90 different species and is capable of producing one million seedlings per year.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released today to officially solicit propositions from individuals and entities interested in operating the facilities. The RFP can be found on the State's purchasing website at: <http://www.bidsync.com/DPX?ac=view&auc=119572>.

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